



# The Compass

*Directions for Hands-on Wildlife Education*

Featuring **BRUKNER NATURE CENTER'S** hands-on programs!



**Brukner Nature Center is a privately funded, non-profit organization promoting the appreciation and understanding of wildlife conservation through preservation, education, and rehabilitation.**



5995 Horseshoe Bend Road, Troy, Ohio 45373  
Located five miles west of Troy and I-75 (exit 73),  
off St. Rt. 55 on Horseshoe Bend Road.

(937) 698-6493  
[info@bruknernaturecenter.com](mailto:info@bruknernaturecenter.com)  
[www.bruknernaturecenter.com](http://www.bruknernaturecenter.com)



## SCHEDULE AHEAD:



Please  
schedule  
months in  
advance

to guarantee you get on  
our calendar, especially  
if you would like to book  
for fall and spring!

Call Monday – Friday at  
937-698-6493.

Dear Teachers,

Brukner Nature Center is a 235 acre nature preserve that is the perfect setting for hands-on experiential education. Our center is home to over 50 Wildlife Ambassadors who can no longer survive in the wild and our trails traverse a wide variety of natural habitats including prairie, woodlands, wetlands and the Stillwater River! The Interpretive Center is filled with hands-on displays plus indoor classroom space for rainy day accommodations.

We have over 48 years of success in the field of environmental education. We have created the ideal outdoor classroom for students learning about Ohio's wildlife and all of our programs feature unforgettable live wildlife encounters. We've developed a number of hands-on programs to select for your visit.

We can't wait to engage your students with wildlife adventures!

**BNC Staff**

## SCHEDULING INFORMATION (FIELDTRIPS @ BNC)

- Call Monday – Friday at 937-698-6493 or by e-mailing [info@bruknernaturecenter.com](mailto:info@bruknernaturecenter.com).
- Our schedule fills quickly, so a 3-month lead time is preferable.
- Programs must occur between 9:00am and 4:00pm.
- Our goal is to have all students divided into groups no larger than 15 to ensure hands-on learning. Two free adults for every 15 students are included in your price.
- Students may have a picnic lunch on site. Trash will need to go back to the school so bring a large trash bag!
- Cash or check is the preferred form of payment, but we can accept credit cards, if necessary. Invoices also may be taken back to school for payment to be submitted.
- Programs are held rain or shine! If the weather becomes too severe to be outside, a rainy day schedule will be followed.
- Programs must be cancelled at least 24 hours in advance or 1½ hours before for weather cancellations due to fog, ice, or snow. Failure to follow cancellation deadlines will result in a \$20 cancellation fee.
- Arriving late? Please call (937) 698-6493 to notify the staff.

*"The world is mud-luscious and puddle-wonderful." ~ e.e. cummings*

## Immerse your students in nature exploration and in-depth discovery!

### HALF AND FULL DAY FIELD TRIPS!

Choose 1 program or mix and match your choice of 2 programs for a customized full-day BNC experience at a reduced price!

Lesson plans can be geared toward all grade levels, emphasizing ecological concepts to meet your students needs – from wonder and awe to environmental issues. Programs can be scheduled as a 1½ to 2 hour program, with a 30 minute break for lunch for full day field trips.

### COST FOR PROGRAMS @ BNC:

**\$5/participant for 1 program**

**\$8/participant for 2 programs in a day**

*A minimum fee of \$50 (1 program) or \$80 (2 programs), will be applied to schools/groups with 10 or less total participants.*

## Take a Walk on the Wild Side!

### NATURE AWARENESS



#### OUR MOST POPULAR PROGRAM!

This program gives you a little bit of everything that BNC has to offer! It's a great introduction to Ohio's wildlife and natural ecosystems and can be geared to any grade level.

- Visit our Wildlife Ambassadors in our Bird Room and Mammal Room, as well as those outside!
- Experience a personal wildlife encounter!
- Watch the birds in our Tree-top Bird Vista.
- Take an interpretive hike thru a variety of habitats

*Maximum number of students: 90*

### CHOOSE FROM THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS:

Nature Awareness

Aquatics

Insects

Winter Wildlife

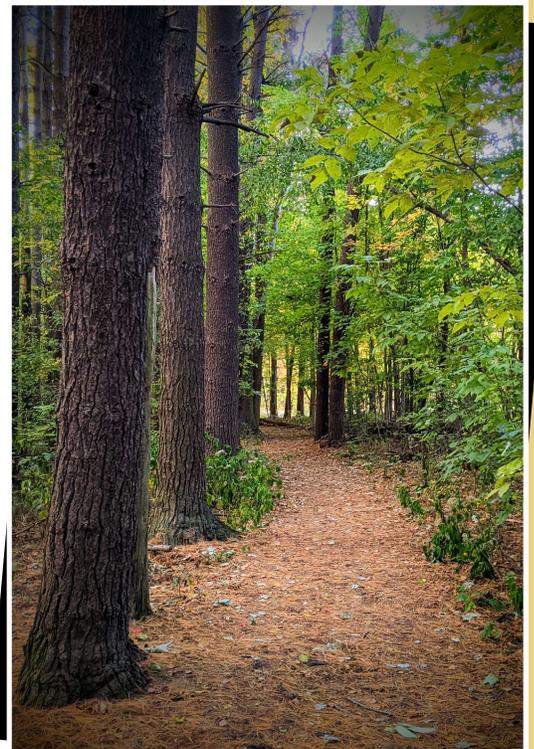
Animal Adaptations

Birds

Wildlife Rehabilitation

Reptiles & Amphibians

Mammals





## Get Wet and Wild! (April - October)

### AQUATICS

- Explore 2 different aquatic ecosystems and discover the wildlife that live in each habitat. (Students will get their feet wet!)
- Learn how we can determine water quality using the creatures we find.
- Discover how animals use cool adaptations to survive in different aquatic environments.
- Kids may get wet! Please wear clothes & shoes suitable to being in the water - no flip-flops!

*Maximum number of students: 60*

#### PROGRAM FEES:

\$5/participant for  
1 program

\$8/participant for  
2 programs in 1 day

Please note: a minimum  
fee of \$50 (1 program) or  
\$80 (2 programs) will be  
applied to groups with  
10 or less participants



## Discover the 6-legged Creatures! (March - November)

### INSECTS

- Learn insect anatomy, as one of your students is transformed into a giant bug!
- Explore different habitats that insects live in, including pond, meadow and forest.
- Use nets and collection jars to catch, examine and release a variety of insects.
- Kids will study metamorphosis and observe different insect life stages.

*Maximum number of  
students: 60*



*"Curiosity must be kept alive." ~ Eleanor Roosevelt*

## Discover the Season of Winter! (December - February)

### WINTER WILDLIFE

- Meet Wildlife Ambassadors focusing on adaptations to survive cold temperatures.
- Learn to identify common Ohio birds seen in winter by sight and sound
- Hike and discover which animals are active. Explore their tracks and find their winter homes.

Maximum number of students: 90



### LUNCH:

Picnic tables are available

for lunch and can be reserved for your group.

If it is raining, we can move groups inside to eat in one of the classrooms.

Remember to bring a large trash bag, as all trash must go back to the school!

## Explore the Diversity of Life!

### ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS

- Learn how animals are classified into groups by studying 5 classes of vertebrate animals.
- Meet 4 live Wildlife Ambassadors and discover how they feel, where they live, and what role they play in the ecosystem.
- Explore how wild animals use their adaptations to survive.
- No hike is included with this program.

Maximum number of students: 60



### FROM A TEACHER:

What was the best part of the program?

“Getting to see the animals. The students LOVED it! The ‘please touch bins’ were super cool as well.”

(SPRINGCREEK PRIMARY)



## Discover the Magic of Wings! BIRDS



- Identify a variety of bird study skins using a dichotmous key as a guide.
- Go 'birding' with real binoculars.
- Identify some of Ohio's common birds by sight and sound.
- Discover bird characteristics and adaptations using actual skulls and feathers.
- Meet a Wildlife Ambassador and discover its role in Ohio's ecosystems.



Maximum number of students: 60



### BUS DROP-OFF:

Upon arrival, look for the "Bus Drop-off" sign near the picnic area.

Busses can then park in our parking lot for the remainder of your visit.

Staff & volunteers will meet your students at the picnic area.

## Discover a Rewarding Profession! WILDLIFE REHABILITATION



- Explore a career in wildlife rehab and learn about the tools we use.
- Learn what to do when you encounter a wild animal that needs help.
- Meet a Wildlife Ambassador who was a former rehab patient!
- Go for a hike and use critical thinking skills to solve wildlife case studies!



Maximum number of students: 60



*"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,  
Nothing is going to get better.  
It's not."  
~Dr. Seuss*

*"I love discovering things." ~Pablo Picasso*

## Explore the World of Mammals!

### MAMMALS



- Meet a wildlife ambassador and discover their amazing adaptations.
- Study Ohio's only winged mammal and play games to explore their unique adaptations.
- Examine a variety of mammal skulls to discover the tooth structure of carnivores, omnivores and herbivores.

Maximum number of students: 60



*"Every child is born a naturalist. His eyes are, by nature, open to the glories of the stars, the beauty of the flowers, and the mystery of life."*  
~ R. Search

## Slithery and Slimy! (March – November)

### REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS



- Meet two Wildlife ambassadors and discover the similarities and differences between amphibians and reptiles.
- Become scientists and study the ecosystem that lives under a rotten log.
- Discover how a snake sheds its skin and how a salamander uses its skin to breathe.

Maximum number of students: 60



### RAINY DAY:

Programs are held rain or shine! Make sure students are dressed for all weather conditions.

If the weather becomes too severe to be outside, a rainy day schedule will be followed.

### Please note:

groups will hike outside if there is only a light rain, so dress appropriately.

### FROM A TEACHER:

What was the best part of the program?

"All of the interactive activities, while also getting to see animals in real life."

(BROOKSIDE DAYCARE)

## SCHEDULING INFORMATION (PROGRAMS @ YOUR SCHOOL)



### SCHEDULE AHEAD:



Our 'Away' program schedule fills quickly,

so it is advised to call or email at least 3 months in advance!

Call Monday – Friday at 937-698-6493.



- Call Brukner Nature Center at (937) 698-6493 to schedule your program or e-mail us at [info@bruknernaturecenter.com](mailto:info@bruknernaturecenter.com) for more information.
- Maximum class size and number of programs per day is listed with each program.
- Our schedule fills quickly so a 3 month lead time is preferable.
- Invoices will be emailed 3-4 weeks prior to the program(s). Cash or check is the preferred form of payment, but we can accept credit cards, if necessary.
- For multiple programs at the same location, it's best if one room can be used for all programs, with students coming to that one classroom during their allotted time period.
- Programs must be cancelled at least 24 hours in advance or 1½ hours before for weather cancellations due to fog, ice, or snow. Failure to follow these procedures will result in a \$20 cancellation fee (plus mileage if staff has traveled to your location).

## Invite our Wildlife to Read to your Students!

### NATURE STORYTIME

- Engage your students in reading with a wildlife related storybook read by a BNC Naturalist.
- Meet one of our Wildlife Ambassadors and discuss its amazing adaptations.
- Enjoy hands-on props from native wildlife such as furs, feathers, and skulls.
- Storytimes are offered year-round and will feature a different wildlife-themed book and animal for each season.



**PROGRAM LENGTH:** 30 minutes

**FEE:** \$75/program + mileage of \$.50/mile

*Maximum number of students: 30/classroom*

*Maximum number of programs: 4/day*

"Teaching a child not to step on a caterpillar is as important to the child as it is to the caterpillar." ~Richard O'Barry

## Live! Wildlife Brought to your Classroom!

### WILDLIFE ENCOUNTER

#### OUR MOST POPULAR PROGRAM!

- Enjoy the excitement your students will feel as they meet 3 – 4 Wildlife Ambassadors up close and personal in their classroom! Staff typically bring a mammal, bird, reptile and/or amphibian for a variety of wildlife to see.
- Want to focus on a particular group of animals? Personalize your wildlife program by focusing “**Birds**”, “**Mammals**”, “**Reptile & Amphibians**” or “**Wildlife Rehab**”.
- Examine lots of hands-on props like furs, skulls, skins and skeletons!

**PROGRAM LENGTH:** 1 hour for school age groups  
45 minutes for preschoolers

**FEE:** \$100/program + mileage of \$.50/mile

*Maximum number of students: 30/classroom*

*Maximum number of programs: 3/day*



## Guided Scientific Exploration!

### OWL EXTRAORDINAIRE



- Meet a Wildlife Ambassador owl that makes Brukner Nature Center their home!
- Discover owls' unique adaptations and examine their feathers, skulls and talons.
- Students will dissect owl pellets and explore an owl's role in the food chain.
- Learn to identify Ohio's owls by their unique calls, like the 'who cooks for you?' of the barred owl!
- Students will take home the bones found in their very own owl pellet!

**Program length:** 1½ hours

**FEE:** \$150/program + mileage of \$.50/mile  
(owl pellets are included)

*Maximum number of students: 30/classroom*

*Maximum number of programs: 2/day*



#### FROM A TEACHER:

“The children are always so excited and guessing what animal Brukner will bring. This is the first thing they tell their families when they get picked up.”

(MARILYN E. THOMAS  
CHILDREN'S CENTER)

## Brukner Nature Center...

### It's about Wildlife!